キャラバン・キッド

5

Johji Manabe

comics

CARAVAN KID

shonen sunday Comics

STUDIO PROTEUS

KRAKK

I *TOLD* YOU NOT TO SNEAK UP ON ME LIKE THAT!

KANG! KANG

YECCH! STOP COMING BACK TO LIFE!

THIS IS ANNOYING-- THEY JUST KEEP ON COMING!

I DON'T REALLY WANT TO KILL THEM...

NO MORE QUESTIONS!
(AND FULL SPEED AHEAD!)

SO GET THE HELL OUT OF MY WAY!

HEY, *MIAN!* TELL ME WHO THIS *'CREATOR'* DUDE IS, WHY DON'TCHA?!

WHO THE HELL IS HE AND WHERE THE HELL DOES HE GET OFF?!

YOU'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH!

"SOON ENOUGH"...?! *YAIEEEEE!*

KROOM!

BABO, YOU CHEAP SWINE! WHAT KIND OF SLEAZY JOINT ARE YOU TAKING US TO?!

HEY, DON'T SWEAT IT! COMPARED TO TIMES SQUARE OR SOHO THIS IS HEAVEN! WHAT A BLAST!

EXPLOSIONS AND FIRE ON SUBTERRANEAN LEVEL THREE, BLOCK E-36!

IT'S *MIAN TORIS*, SIR! SHE'S STILL ALIVE!

HEADQUARTERS, WE'VE FOUND MIAN TORIS! SHE'S ENGAGING THE EMPIRE GUARD!

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?!

MIAN TORIS STILL ALIVE?!

THAT HELL-SPAWNED BITCH !!

AND WHAT ABOUT *MANSTEIN*?! HAVE THEY CAPTURED HIM YET?!

WE'VE MOBILIZED EVERY AVAILABLE SOLDIER, SIR! BUT STILL...

ENOUGH OF YOUR EX-CUSES! I'M TAKING COMMAND OF THE SEARCH MYSELF!

TEN-
SHUN
!

AS OF THIS MOMENT, KYURAWEIL KEEP IS UNDER MY DIRECT COMMAND!

I WANT A STATUS REPORT! IMMEDI-ATELY!

!

YOU THERE, SOLDIER! I'M TAKING COMMAND, DO YOU HEAR?!

GET OUT OF THE COMMANDER'S SEAT!

ARE YOU DEAF AND DUMB, MAN?! *GUARDS!* TAKE THIS SCUM TO THE BRIG!

ALWAYS THROWING YOUR WEIGHT AROUND, EH, KESSELRING?!

THAT VOICE...!

NO, IT *CAN'T* BE--!

SO...HOW HAVE YOU BEEN SINCE WE LAST SPOKE, COMMANDER IN CHIEF?

I'M *SO* DEEPLY HONORED TO MEET YOU AGAIN.

WHAT THE--!

!

ANNOYING, ISN'T IT?

WHY, YOU...

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU CAN ACCOMPLISH, YOU FILTHY TRAITOR?!

A TRAITOR? *ME?*

PERHAPS THE CROWN MAY SEE IT THAT WAY.

AS FOR MYSELF, I CONSIDER US TO BE... *REFORMERS.*

DON'T PLAY WORD GAMES WITH ME!

DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN DEFY *EMPRESS SHION*?!

SHE'LL NEVER LET YOU GET AWAY WITH IT!

AH YES, OUR DEAR EMPRESS...

WE'VE BEEN A LITTLE *TOO* WILLING TO FOLLOW HER AROUND, KESSELRING.

MANSTEIN! HOW DARE YOU--!

TRUE, SHE TOOK OUR MISERABLE LITTLE COUNTRY AND IN A FEW SHORT YEARS MADE IT THE EMPIRE THAT HELGEBARD IS TODAY. I GRANT HER THAT POWER...

...THAT ALL-TOO-FRIGHTENING POWER.

BUT JUST LOOK AT THE EMPIRE SHE HAS BUILT! LOOK AT KYURAWEIL ITSELF!

WE'RE NOTHING MORE THAN A REPOSITORY FOR VAST RESERVES OF ENERGY, BURSTING AT THE SEAMS!

AND WHAT FOR?

CAN YOU ANSWER THAT, KESSELRING? YOU, THE CLOSEST AMONG ALL HER CLOSE AIDES?

ALREADY WE'VE GATHERED MORE ENERGY THAN OUR PLANET CAN CONSUME IN TEN THOUSAND YEARS!

AND WHAT OF MIAN TORIS?

WHY IS SHION SO CONCERNED WITH THAT SINGLE GIRL...?

TRUE. IT'S TRUE... THERE ARE TIMES HER MAJESTY'S SUBTLE PLANS DEFY MY OWN POOR UNDERSTANDING...

KNEEL BEFORE HER *TOO* LONG AND IT'LL BE TOO LATE, KESSELRING!

IF WE LET THAT MADWOMAN CONTROL OUR EMPIRE, BY THE TIME WE FINALLY OPEN OUR EYES WE MAY BE ON THE BRINK OF DESTRUCTION!

IT'S UP TO US TO STOP HER! WHILE THERE'S STILL A CHANCE!

WE MUST TAKE HELGEBARD BACK INTO OUR OWN HANDS!

AND...JUST WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE ME DO..?

AREN'T YOU THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF? ALL IT TAKES IS A SINGLE WORD TO THE ARMY...!

NOW WHERE ARE WE? THIS PLACE IS THE WEIRDEST ONE YET.

JEEZ! JUST LOOK HOW FAR DOWN IT GOES!

IT LOOKS LIKE A TRANSIT SHAFT FROM THE LOWEST LEVELS ALL THE WAY TO THE KEEP.

A TRANSIT SHAFT? OH, FOR PETE'S SAKE YOURE NOT GOING TO SUGGEST CLIMBING *UP* THIS BOTTOMLESS PIT, ARE YOU?

DONT BE SILLY

ON THE OTHER HAND, WE CAN'T JUST WANDER AROUND DOWN HERE FOREVER

I'M RUNNING OUT OF TIME...

♩

SHREE!

SHREEEE

KONGA!

CALL HQ! GET US REINFORCEMENTS!

ROLLINGS

WHAT? YOU *CAPTURED* MIAN TORIS?!

WITH A DUMB-LOOKING KID AND EIGHT AKOGI?

BUT HOW ON EARTH--?!

.....

.....

HOW AMUSING

SHE THINKS SHE CAN USE US TO GET INTO THE CASTLE. HER OWN HANDY SHORTCUT.

HEH.. HOW LIKE THAT WOMAN.

AND SO? WHAT DO YOU ADVISE?

LET HER USE US, EH? BRING HER INTO THE KEEP.

ARE YOU *INSANE?!* YOU WANT US TO PLAY INTO THE HANDS OF A DANGEROUS, WANTED CRIMINAL?!

COME, COME. THE EMPRESS SAID SHE WANTED MIAN *ALIVE*, REMEMBER. AND YOU *ARE* IN CHARGE, HERE.

ANOTHER MEDAL FOR ME, HMM...?

CRASH CRASH

YOU *DUMMY!* WHY'D YOU LET THEM GET US LIKE THAT?!

I FIGURED YOU'D HIJACK THE SHUTTLE TO GET INTO KYURAWEIL. AND *NOW* LOOK AT US!

HEY, WE'RE GETTING IN, AREN'T WE, SILLY?

I FIGURE THIS KYURAWEIL KEEP PLACE MUST BE CHOCK-FULLA SUCKERS...ER, CUSTOMERS.

WE'RE GONNA RAKE IT IN, BOYS!

SO YOU GOT OUR ESCAPE ALL PLANNED, RIGHT?

AN ESCAPE? UH-*UH*. I FIGURED I'D HAVE THEM TAKE US *RIGHT* TO SHION.

SAY WHAT?

SHION *NEEDS* ME, WATARU.

IT'LL BE *SO* NICE TO SEE HER AGAIN.

WHADDYA FIGURE WE CAN FLOG TO THESE TURKEY SOLDIERS, EH? EH?!

THAT'S *CHICKEN FEED*, BOY! HOW ABOUT OFFICIAL SUPPLIERS BY APPOINTMENT TO THE EMPRESS?!

YEAH, YEAH! WE'LL TAP RIGHT INTO THIS SHION BABE'S MONEY BAGS!

KESSELRING

THE EMPRESS SAID TO BRING THEM STRAIGHT TO HER

THE SHOW'S ALL YOURS, KESSELRING.

PRESENT ARMS!

MOVE IT!

HEY, THAT HURTS! KEEP YOUR MEATHOOKS OFFA ME!

MIAN TORIS! YOU'RE COMPLETELY SURROUNDED!

RESISTANCE IS USELESS!

OH, GOSH. IM *SO* SCARED.

WELCOME TO *KYURAWEIL KEEP*, YOUNG LADY.

I AM *ALBERT KESSELRING*, COMMANDER IN CHIEF, IMPERIAL JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

AS THE COMMANDER OF OUR IMPERIAL ARMY, I TAKE A CERTAIN PLEASURE IN SEEING YOU IN CUSTODY.

WE HAVE A LOT OF SCORES TO SETTLE, MY DEAR.

OH *MY*...SO YOU'RE THE OLD FART IN CHARGE OF THIS GANG OF BOZOS.

YOU SURE LOOK THE PART, PRUNE-FACE.

S-*SILENCE*, YOU LITTLE FOOL !!

BY ALL RIGHTS I SHOULD HAVE YOU SHOT DEAD ON THE SPOT...BUT HER MAJESTY THE EMPRESS HERSELF WILL DECIDE YOUR MISERABLE FATES. REJOICE IN THE HONOR!

YOU HEAR THAT, GUYS?! WE'RE DEALING WITH THE EMPRESS HERSELF!

IT'S THE BIG PAYOFF! WE'VE GOT IT MADE!

YOU'RE NOT GOING *ANYWHERE!* HER MAJESTY HAS A *SPECIAL* LOATHING OF YOU AKOGI VERMIN!

EEYAHH!

FWHUMP

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?

IT'S FULL OF GARBAGE! YOU CALL THIS AN OVEN MADE?

TURN THE INCINERATOR UP FULL BLAST! THOSE THINGS ARE WALKING GARBAGE!

DON'T KNOW IT THERE WON'T EVEN BE ASHES LEFT



YOUR MAJESTY. FORGIVE ME FOR KEEPING YOU WAITING.

I HAVE BROUGHT MIAN TORIS AND HER CO-CONSPIRATOR HERE BEFORE YOU, AS ORDERED.

EXCELLENT WORK, KESSELRING, EXCELLENT.

YOU MAY LEAVE !

BUT, YOUR MAJESTY--!

GET OUT !!

YES, YOUR MAJESTY!

MIAN!

THERE'S NO ONE LEFT TO INTERFERE.

SO YOU CAN CEASE THIS ABSURD ACT.

THERE'S NO WAY THEY COULD HAVE TAKEN YOU PRISONER.

HEH... THOUGHT YOU'D FIGURE THAT OUT.

SWOOSH

AND SO WE MEET AGAIN, WATARU....

IT SEEMS YOU COULDN'T MAKE A DECISION, RIGHT TO THE VERY END.

UH, WELL, YEAH, YOU KNOW, GEE, SORTA....

I, UH, I DONT REALLY FOLLOW ALL THIS COMPLICATED STUFF....

HEY...WHAT'S SHE TALKING ABOUT, WATARU?

BUT YOU *WILL* DECIDE, YOUNG MAN, WHETHER YOU LIKE IT OR NOT! HERE, IN THIS CHAMBER, YOU WILL CHOOSE BETWEEN ME AND MIAN TORIS!

HUH?!

LAY OFF HIM, SHION! I'M *NOT* CHANGING MY MIND! *NO WAY!!*

HEH... MIAN, MY DEAR, IVE LONG SINCE GIVEN UP ON CHANGING YOUR STUBBORN LITTLE MIND...

I WILL HAVE YOUR COOPER-ATION BY *FORCE!*

IM HERE TO DESTROY YOU, SHION!

DO YOUR DUTY, BREAKER.

NOW WAIT ONE *DOGGONE* MINUTE!!

WATARU...?

DON'T TELL ME WE'VE COME THIS FAR AND YOU *STILL* WON'T TELL ME ANYTHING?!

BUT... BUT I *CAN'T*... IT'S TOO MUCH...

WHY ARE YOU HIDING THE TRUTH, MIAN?!

GAME OVER

HE'S HERE...

AH, YES. THE ARRIVAL OF OUR DEAR CREATOR...

THE *CREATOR'S* COMING?!

DAMMIT, MIAN! WHO THE HELL IS THE CREATOR?! *TELL ME!*

WATARU, I...

ENOUGH, WATARU. LET *ME* TELL YOU.

BY NOW YOU'VE EARNED THE RIGHT TO KNOW... *EVERYTHING!*

MIAN, HAVEN'T YOU TOLD WATARU *ANYTHING?*

NOT ONE LOUSY TEENY-WEENY *THING!*

OH, *YEAH?!* AND WHO FALLS ASLEEP AT THE FIRST TWO-SYLLABLE WORD?!

WAAH!

AIEEE!! STARS! I'M FALLING!

CALM DOWN, WILL YOU? IT'S JUST A HOLO-PROJECTION OF SHION'S MEMORY.

GEE, WHAT'S THAT BRIGHT THING..?

YAIEEE!! IT'S COMING RIGHT AT US!

THE IMPERIAN AND THE BREAKER

SHEESH.. WHAT *IS* ALL THIS?

GALACTIC IMPERIUM STAR SECTOR 4077...BELTER THREE.

IN OTHER WORDS, THE MISERABLE MUD BALL WHERE YOU LIVE, WATARU.. ON THE DAY I ARRIVED.

"GALACTIC IMPERIUM"...?

SO SPACE IS FULLA *BUG-EYED MONSTERS,* HUH?

YEAH, *RIGHT!*

I WOULDN'T EXPECT YOU FLATLANDERS TO COMPREHEND...

BUT THIS ENTIRE UNIVERSE IS RULED BY A SINGLE, *MAMMOTH* EMPIRE.

EACH IMPERIUM COLONY WORLD IS ASSIGNED A UTILITY LEVEL FROM ONE TO SIXTEEN...

LEVEL ONE IS THE *MOST* USEFUL. LEVEL ONE PLANETS ARE UNDER DIRECT IMPERIUM JURISDICTION, GRANTED THE RIGHT OF SELF-RULE, RECEIVING THE FULL *MUNIFICENCE* OF IMPERIUM PROTECTION

THE CITIZENS OF LEVEL-ONE PLANETS *MAY* TRADE DIRECTLY AND FREELY THROUGHOUT THE EMPIRE. INDEED, THEY *MAY* RISE TO THE HIGHEST RANKS OF GOVERNANCE, TRUSTED EQUALS AMONG OUR PEOPLE. HOWEVER, YOUR HOME, BELTER THREE...

...IS A MISERABLE CESSPOOL, SCARCELY DESERVING OF A LEVEL SIXTEEN RATING!

SELF-RULE? DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH. YOUR PLANET HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AN *ENERGY POOL*, TO BE DRAINED OF EVERY RESOURCE ABOVE AND BELOW THE SURFACE.

NOW WAIT ONE FREAKIN' MINUTE! NO ONE EVER ASKED *US* ABOUT THIS!

SHEESH! WE'VE NEVER EVEN *HEARD* OF YOUR DUMB OL' IMPERIUM!

MAYBE YOU WERE BETTER OFF *NOT* KNOWING, *MM?*

AFTER ALL, YOU'RE JUST SLAVES, MINDLESSLY LABORING FOR THE EMPIRE

THE IMPERIUM DISPATCHES TO PLANETS LIKE YOURS A RULER AND A SMALL DETACHMENT OF PERSONNEL, WITH A *MODICUM* OF SUPPLIES AND TECHNOLOGY TO HELP THEM SEIZE POWER.

THEIR *MISSION* IS UNIFICATION AND CONTROL OF LEVEL-SIXTEEN COLONY WORLDS.

TO RESHAPE THOSE WORLDS TO *MAXIMIZE* THEIR ENERGY SUPPLY POTENTIAL.

I AM THAT RULER! I AM A *COMMISSAR ANDROID,* SENT TO PERFORM THAT MISSION.

MY SISTERS AND I ARE KNOWN AS *IMPERIANS.*

SO *YOU'RE* AN ANDROID, TOO...

SOMEHOW I'M NOT SURPRISED..

I MEAN, YOU AND MIAN ARE REALLY *JUST* LIKE EACH OTHER.

SHION'S LIKE *ME?!*

DON'T ASK ME TO PUT A FINGER ON IT, IT'S JUST...

"TWO OF A KIND," YOU KNOW?

HEH.. YOU AND I, TWO OF A KIND.

I WOULD HAVE CALLED US... NATURAL ENEMIES.

WHAT AN HONOR.

EVERYTHING WAS GOING ACCORDING TO PLAN

I USED MY ABILITIES TO THE FULLEST I TOOK HELGEBARD IN HAND, MADE IT AN EMPIRE, BROUGHT THE ENTIRE PLANET TO HEEL.

I ESTABLISHED MY BASE HERE IN KYURAWEIL AND BEGAN TO EXPAND ENERGY PRODUCTION, BUILDING UP OUR RESERVES

ALL GOING WELL, THAT IS, UNTIL I LEARNED THAT THERE WERE *OTHERS* ON BELTER THREE! OTHERS SENT TO WATCH OVER ME!

"BREAKERS"

THAT'S WHAT THEY CALL THEM...*CIRCUIT BREAKERS.* TERMINATOR ANDROIDS RUN BY THE IMPERIUM'S INTERNAL CONTROL/DISCIPLINE COMMAND"

FIVE BREAKERS, SENT IN STRICTEST SECRECY TO MONITOR EACH IMPERIAN ANDROID.

THE BREAKERS HAVE BUT A SINGLE ORDER-- IF AN IMPERIAN DEFIES THE WILL OF THE IMPERIUM, *TERMINATE NER!*

THAT'S *RIGHT,* SHION! AND *YOUR* TERMINATION ORDER HAS BEEN SENT!

THAT'S WHY I WAS ACTIVATED!

GOOD LORD... THERE'S *FIVE* OF YOU?!

YEAH, FIVE COPIES.

THIS COULD BE HEAVEN, THIS COULD BE HELL...

SO YOU RAN SCARED.

YOU WERE AFRAID THAT YOU'D BE TERMINATED AND A NEW IMPERIAN SENT TO TAKE YOUR PLACE.

I WAS *RATIONAL!*

THERE IS NO REASON FOR *ME* TO BE TERMINATED.

MY GOVERNANCE CAPACITIES ARE *IMPECCABLE!*

THEN WHY DID THE BREAKER FUNCTION KICK IN? I'LL TELL YOU WHY...

BECAUSE YOU BELIEVED TOO MUCH IN YOUR OWN ABILITIES!

YOU TRIED TO BREAK AWAY FROM IMPERIUM CONTROL.

YOU'VE RUN WILD, SHION!!

STILL, I HAVE TO GIVE YOU CREDIT.

IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE FOR SOMEONE WITH YOUR DESIGN PARAMETERS, BUT YOU FOUND A WAY TO HACK INTO THE BREAKER SYSTEM.

AND TO ELIMINATE THE BREAKERS THEMSELVES. ALL OF THEM EXCEPT *ME!*

YOU MANAGED TO HIDE YOUR ACTIONS FROM THE IMPERIUM CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WHILE YOU SET YOUR HOUNDS ON MY TAIL...

AND ALL THE WHILE, YOU WERE PLOTTING TO FREE YOURSELF FROM THE IMPERIUM *FOREVER!*

AND WHAT'S WRONG WITH *THAT?!*

I DON'T WANT TO SPEND MY LIFE UNDER IMPERIUM CONTROL, A LOYAL *PUPPET!*

IT'S MY *RIGHT* TO DECIDE HOW I LIVE!

SHION, WE'RE NOT HUMAN, YOU AND I.

WE'RE ANDROIDS, CREATED TO FAITHFULLY SERVE THE IMPERIUM.

THEN *WHY* DID THEY MAKE US JUST LIKE THEM! TELL ME THAT!

WHY DID THE CREATOR GIVE US A *SOUL?!*

IT DID *THAT* TO US AND THEN DENIES US THE FREEDOM TO LIVE AS WE PLEASE!

IF WE WERE HUMAN, THEY'D CALL US SLAVES...

I WILL NOT BE A SLAVE!

WATARU!

HUH?! YES, MA'AM ?!

IF I CAN FREE MYSELF FROM IMPERIAL CONTROL, I WILL NEVER LET THEM TOUCH YOUR PLANET, *NEVER!*

I HAVE THAT POWER.

BUT IT IS *MIAN* WHO IS TRYING TO STOP ME.

SHE'S AN AGENT OF THE IMPERIUM, HERE TO KEEP YOU ON THEIR *LEASH* FOREVER!

RIGHT IS ON MY SIDE, WATARU!

IF YOU CAN UNDERSTAND THAT, STEP ASIDE! WITNESS THE END OF A BREAKER!

HUH ?

I WILL NEED YOU, WATARU. LATER...

THE *HELL* I WILL!

WHAT ?!

I..I'M NOT SMART OR NOTH'N'.. I DON'T UNDERSTAND ALL THIS STUFF..

BUT I WON'T LET YOU HURT MY MIAN! *NEVER!*

WATARU, IT'S OKAY! STEP ASIDE!

YOU SHUT YOUR TRAP!

GRR!

WHAT DID YOU SAY.. ?

WHEN I SAY MOVE IT, *YOU MOVE IT!* IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!

THE HELL IT AIN'T!

I...I'M IN *LOVE WITH YOU,* DAMN IT!

I finally said it...

:HAHH:

W-WHAT?

:HAHH:

:GASP:

YOU'RE A SHORT TEMPERED, SELF-CENTERED, VIOLENT LITTLE *BRAT*.

SMACKING ME AROUND, GIVING ME HELL, BUT STILL...

I LOVE YOU, MIAN TORIS...

AND I'M SUPPOSED TO STAND BY AND WATCH YOU FIGHT TO THE DEATH..?!

WATARU...

I DID IT! WHAT A LINE! WHAT A DELIVERY! WHAT A GUY!

YOU *KNUCKLEHEAD!!* I'M NOT EVEN *HUMAN!*

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, FALLING IN LOVE WITH AN *ANDROID?!*

HEY, IT *HAPPENED!* GOT A PROBLEM WITH THAT?!

IT'S NOT.. LIKE, I MEAN, A PROBLEM, IT'S JUST THAT...

I- *LOVE-YOU!!*

YOU FOOL...

HEH HEH HEH.

HA HA HA HA "

MIAN! IT SEEMS WE *ARE* DIFFERENT! THE CREATOR DIDN'T GIVE YOU A SOUL AFTER ALL!

IT LOOKS LIKE YOU ONLY BROUGHT WATARU ALONG TO FULFILL YOUR MISSION!

Y'MEAN SHE'S GONNA LAY HER EGG INSIDE ME...?!

I'M NOT AN *ALIEN*, YOU KNOTHEAD!

I PAY MY RESPECTS TO YOUR EXEMPLARY LOYALTY, MIAN

OF COURSE, I DON'T INTEND TO LET YOU TERMINATE ME

G-GREAT! C CAUSE *I'LL* FIGHT YOU INSTEAD!

SCANNED WITH CAMSCANNER

MIAN, WHAT.

FORGIVE ME, WATARU...

BUT THIS IS *MY* MISSION!

MIAN...

B-BEAT HER. YOU... YOU GOTTA WIN...

HEY, NO PROB, DEAR!

DONE WITH YOUR GOOD-BYES, MIAN?!

DON'T PUSH THAT OLD BODY OF YOURS *TOO* HARD, SHION.

AN IMPERIAN *CAN'T* BEAT A BREAKER!

SHION

WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT...

SPAWN

TIME TO DIE !!

YOUR RESPONSE SPEED WAS 0.0002 SECONDS TOO SLOW.

YOUVE LOST YOUR EDGE, MIAN.

WHAT ?!

MIAN, DON'T DIE...

I DON'T CARE IF YOU LOSE I DON'T CARE IF SHION'S RIGHT ABOUT YOU. JUST DON'T DIE..

INFERNO

UWAAP

KRAN GGG

MY, MY, MY... IS THIS THE BEST YOU CAN DO, MIAN?

SHE'S TOO STRONG!

IT'S *IMPOSSIBLE*-- NO IMPERIAN CAN OUTFIGHT A BREAKER!

IT'S BEEN FUN, MIAN BUT I HAVE *MUCH* TO DO TODAY, SO..

HNNK...!

MI-

MIAN!!!

ARGH!

NOW IM *REALLY* MAD..!

MIAN! SURRENDER! SHE'LL *KILL* YOU!!

HEY, DON'T WORRY!

I'M AN ANDROID, REMEMBER?!

HEH...

ON YOUR FEET, MIAN

CHOP

NEED

OH, GOD.. MIAN!!

HNN..!

D DAMN IT!

IT'S TIME.. TO SAY.. GOOD-BYE!

DON'T!
STOP!
PLEASE!

DON'T!!!



MARIONETTE



...BE HAPPENING !!

MIAN...?

MIAN!!

THIS IS JUST A JOKE, RIGHT? RIGHT?!

YOU'RE ALWAYS SO STRONG... SO TOUGH!

MIAN! OPEN YOUR EYES, DAMMIT!

MIAN...



GOD DAMN YOU, YOU B.TCH! WHY'D YOU KILL HER?!

YOU'D ALREADY KNOW, NOW! YOU KNEW IT!

WHY'D YOU HAVE TO HACK HER TO PIECES LIKE THAT?!

ROTTEN BITCH!!

KYAAAH!!!

!!

WHERE

I'LL WARN YOU JUST ONCE-- *NEVER* TURN A SWORD AGAINST ME AGAIN.

DO YOU UNDER-STAND ?!

SHIT. WHY AM I SUCH A GODDAMN WEAKLING .

?

YOU... BRING HER AND FOLLOW ME

W-WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU TAKING HER?

YOUR LITTLE GIRL IS GOING TO HELP ME CARRY OUT MY PLAN.

YOU SAW THEM?

THEY'RE *CYBORGS*, MADE OUT OF MY SERVANTS.

THEY DON'T SPEAK, THEY DON'T THINK. THEY JUST FOLLOW MY ORDERS TO THE DEATH MY FAITHFUL AUTOMATONS.

MIAN WAS LIKE THAT, TOO, YOU KNOW

SHE HAD NO REAL WILL OF HER OWN. SHE JUST BLINDLY CARRIED OUT THE CREATOR'S ORDERS...

SHE ONLY FOUGHT *ME* BECAUSE SHE WAS PROGRAMMED TO. SHE HAD NO *REASON*...NOT FOR ANYTHING.

BUT I--*I* AM DIFFERENT!

I HAVE WON MY INDEPENDENCE I JUDGE FOR MYSELF I *ACT* FOR MYSELF.

MIAN'S NO PUPPET ON A STRING!

I NEVER THOUGHT SHE WAS AN ANDROID! NOT *ONCE*, UNDERSTAND?!

WHEN SHE WAS TRAVELLING WITH US, ME AND BABO, SHE WAS JUST LIKE A NORMAL GIRL!

SHE MAY HAVE PLAYED ROUGH SOMETIMES, BUT SHE WAS *MORE HUMAN* THAN ANYONE ELSE I'VE EVER KNOWN!

WHAT ON EARTH..?

POOR BOY... YOU REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND A THING...

SHUT UP!

YOU THINK I *COULD HAVE LOVED HER*, HAD IT BEEN ANY OTHER WAY?!

BURN CYCLE COMPLETE. DAMPERS CLOSED.

THEY'RE BLACKER THAN A SMOKED CIGAR BY NOW.

MAN, IT TAKES A PLASMA INCINERATOR TO STOP THOSE AKOGI ROACHES!

YEAH... NO WONDER THE EMPRESS HATES THEM.

HEY... WHAT'S THAT SINGING ?

♪ THE LOWLIEST ♫ WORM... THE GREASIEST ♪ SLIMEBALL...

IT'S COMING FROM *INSIDE* THE INCINERATOR!

BEEP

ABABE AHAG...

IMPOSSIBLE! IT CAN'T BE...

♪ALL OF THEM, ALL OF THEM, LOVELY CUSTOMERS!! ♫

♫

HI-HO, ♪ THE CUSTOMER IS GOD! ♫

S-SIR! WHY...HOW.. THEY'RE TOTALLY UNTOUCHED.

HEY HO! ♫ HEY HO!

JUST ANOTHER MYSTERY FROM THE DAWN OF TIME, SON..

MAN OH MAN, WHAT A TAN!

DRAT! I'M PEELING!

YEE HEE HEE! THIS IS KINDA FUN!

ALL RIGHT, YOU LOT!!

WHY?! HOW CAN YOU STILL BE ALIVE?! IT WAS SIX THOUSAND DEGREES IN THERE!!

THE SECRET POWER OF THE AKOGI-- THE GALAXY'S THICKEST SKINS!

TADAAH

YOUR HATS! WHY NOT YOUR HATS?!

POOR TWISTED FOOL! NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE AKOGI HAT!

WE KEEP ALL OUR ASSETS GLUED TO OUR NOGGIN!

NO WAY, THAT BABY'S GONNA BURN!

RED TEN

RECEIPTS

WALLET

DEPOSIT BOOK

INSURANCE POLICIES

KRUGERRAND

CREDIT CARDS

NOT BAD, HUH, GUYS?!

WE'RE ALL DOOMED.. THE WHOLE UNIVERSE..

HEE HEE HEE


WHAT'S THAT RUMBLE?! THE EARTH'S SHAKING!
IT'S TOO LONG FOR AN EARTHQUAKE...
WHA-?!
DO DO DO DO
KYURAWEIL KEEP! IT'S GLOWING !!


ENEMIES
WITHIN

PRESSURE QUOTIENT-- PLUS THREE THOUSAND AND RISING... PLUS FOUR THOUSAND ..

ALL SAFETY BYPASSES OPEN RESISTANCE RISING ON CENTRAL POWER CIRCUITS!

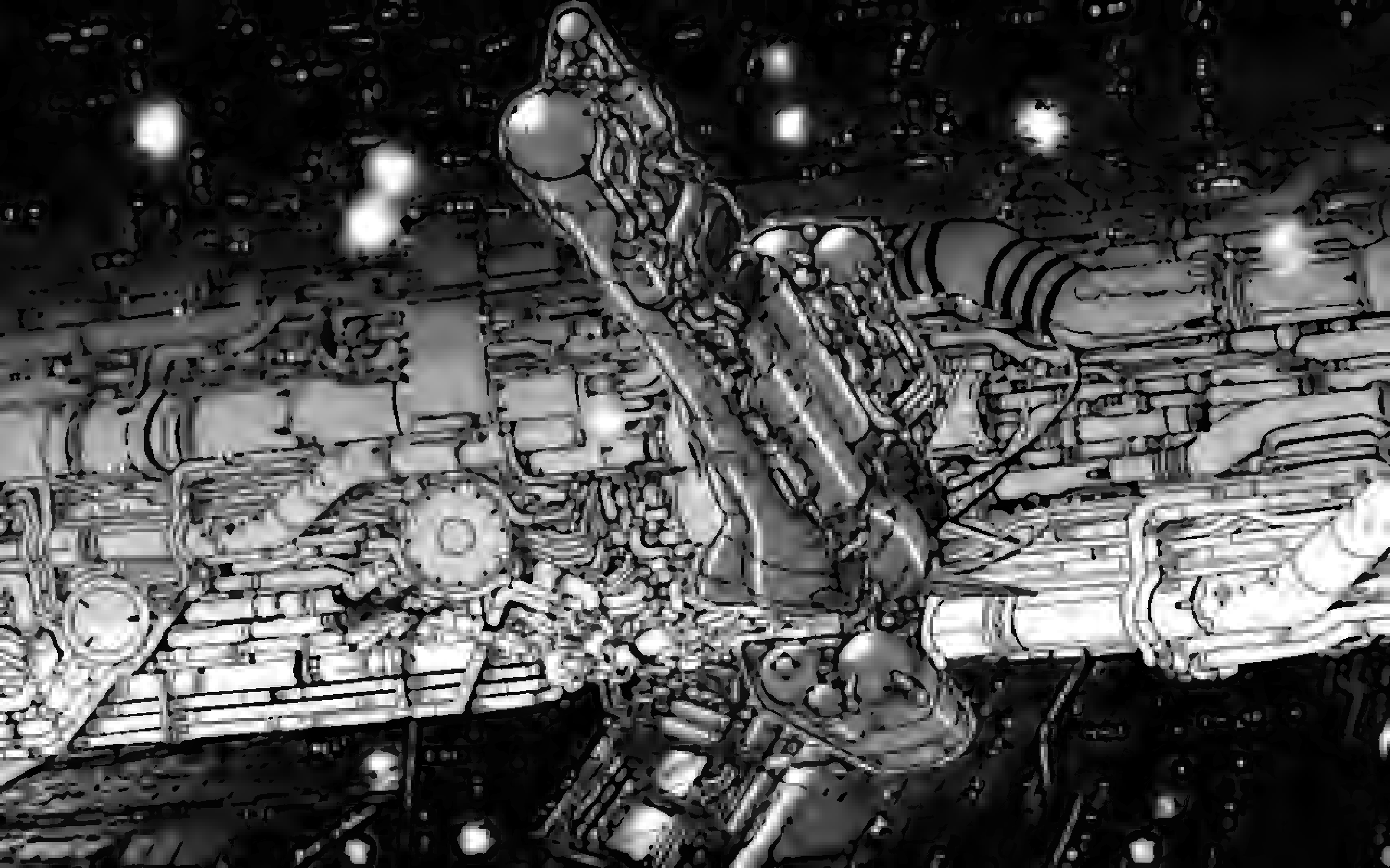
CONTINUING TO BUILD. GOING CRITICAL IN THREE POINT TWO.

FIRST AND SECOND THERMAL CHOCK BARRIERS FLOODED POLARIZATION FIELD ANGLE, ONE-HUNDRED-TWENTY DEGREES!

ENJOY THE VIEW, WATARU !

MIAN IS THE NEW HEART OF MY CASTLE FOREVER !

!!



MIAN

WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO HER ?!

LOOK AT HER BREAST-PLATE

THAT'S RIGHT THE BLACK SPHERE YOU KEPT WITH YOU ALL THAT TIME FOR ME.

WHEN DID YOU

WHAT IS THAT THING ?!

WHAT THE HELL ?! IT'S--

MY PLANS REQUIRE MIAN'S GREAT INTERNAL ENERGY.

THAT'S WHAT *BREAKERS* DO-- THEY LET THEIR ENERGY RUN OUT OF CONTROL, DESTROYING EVERYTHING IN THEIR PATH.

BUT...BUT WOULDN'T THAT DESTROY THE BREAKER, TOO?

I IMAGINE SO. AFTER ALL, SHE HAS POWER ENOUGH TO BLOW THIS FORTRESS TO DUST

BUT OF COURSE, THE CREATOR ALSO DEVISED A WAY TO CONTROL THAT ENERGY

IT'S THOSE CRYSTAL SPHERES-- THOSE SPHERES IN *ALL* OUR BREASTPLATES

SO YOU HAD DOCTOR KOCOHM MAKE A SPHERE THAT *YOU* COULD CONTROL INSTEAD OF THE CREATOR?!

VERY GOOD, WATARU. THAT'S WHY I GAVE IT TO YOU.

TOUGH LUCK, SWEETHEART. YOU DIDN'T REALLY THINK I'D LISTEN TO *YOU*, DID YOU?

IT WAS A GAMBLE. AT THE TIME, I DIDN'T KNOW MIAN WOULD BE SUCH A PUSHOVER.

BUT SHE WAS... THANKS TO *YOU*, DEAR WATARU. IT WAS HER EXPERIENCES WITH YOU THAT SHOOK HER SENSE OF MISSION.

YOU TAUGHT HER TO *DOUBT*.

I... HUH ?

JUST THINK, WATARU. THOSE DOUBTS THAT *YOU* CREATED ERODED HER BREAKER COMBAT SKILLS. THEY *KILLED* HER.

.....

.....

THE PROBLEM IS...HOW COULD IT HAVE HAPPENED? SHE WASN'T BUILT WITH A HEART...

PREPARE TO ENERGIZE ?

CONTROL SYSTEMS NOMINAL! PRESSURE STILL RISING!

CRITICAL LIMITS EXCEEDED, FACTOR 0.4. FINAL PROGRAM RUNNING.. NOW!

POLARIZATION FIELD ADJUSTMENT, COMPLETE! THIRTY SECONDS TO FULL DISCHARGE THRESHOLD!

VRNN

COUNTING FROM SIXTY... NOW!

FIFTY-NINE...

FIFTY-EIGHT.

THE ENERGY COLLECTION SHIP OF THE *GALACTIC IMPERIUM OF RA.*

IF WE DON'T STOP HER, SHE'LL BE BACK EVERY THREE YEARS TO SUCK ALL THE ENERGY FROM YOUR WORLD

HOW I'VE WAITED FOR THIS DAY! THIS SINGLE BLOW SHALL SET US ALL FREE!

TARGET LOCK, SOLID!

LIGHT-SOURCE ERROR ADJUSTMENT, AZIMUTH 0 0003!

IT'S, IT'S *HUGE!* HOW CAN YOU.

WE HAVE ALL THAT ENERGY, WATARU COLLECTED, STORED IF WE CAN JUST REDIRECT IT...

AND ADD THE POWER OF MIAN'S BODY!

6...

5...

4...

3...

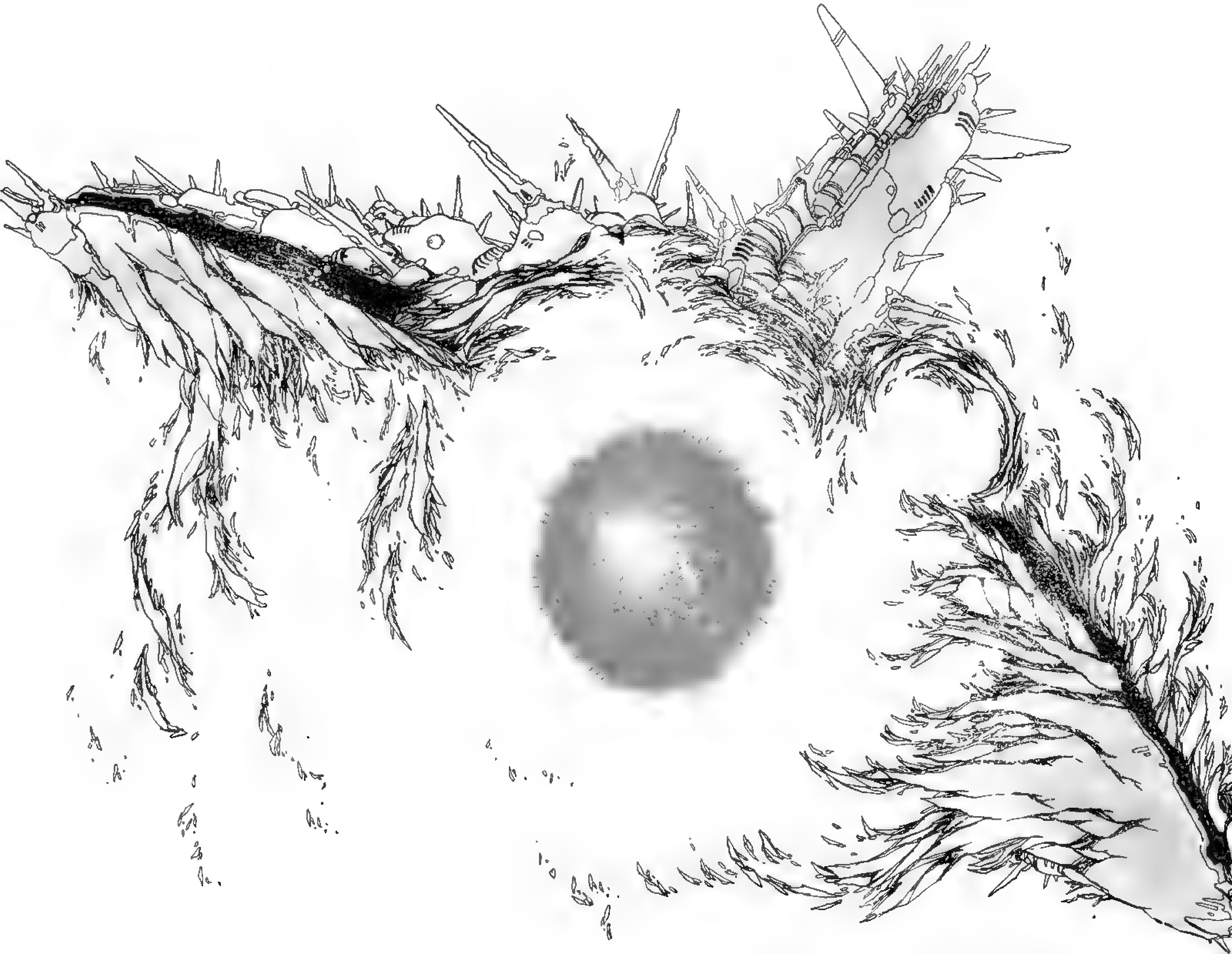
2...

1...

0°

FIRE
!!






MIAMI
LAST REQUEST

HEH


HEH HEH HEH
HEH HA HA!
HA HA HA HA!
BEHOLD MY POWER!
NOW NO ONE CAN STOP ME! NO ONE !!

STOP!

YOU'VE DONE ALL YOU WANTED!

NOW GIVE MIAN BACK TO ME! I CAN'T LEAVE HER LIKE THAT!

ALL I WANTED? DON'T BE A FOOL.

YOU THINK IT'S FINISHED JUST BECAUSE I'VE VAPORIZED A SINGLE ENERGY COLLECTION SHIP?

NO, MIAN SHALL REMAIN WHERE SHE IS--THE ETERNAL GUARDIAN OF THIS WORLD!

THE IMPERIUM SHOULD REALIZE HER POWER NOW AND LEAVE US BE

MY ASPIRATIONS ARE MODEST, WATARU DEAR. I JUST WISH TO HAVE CONTROL OF MY OWN FATE

BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, THAT LITTLE DREAM REQUIRES MASSIVE MILITARY POWER...

...ENOUGH POWER TO DEFY THE ENTIRE RA IMPERIUM.

WHAT?!

SO LET ME TEACH YOU A LITTLE SOMETHING.

MIAN'S BEEN REBUILT SHE CAN ONLY SUSTAIN HER INTERNAL ENERGY FLOW THROUGH HER LINKAGE TO KYURAWEIL KEEP.

IN OTHER WORDS. THIS IS THE *ONLY* WAY MIAN CAN STAY ALIVE... NOW AND FOREVER.

SHE'S *ALIVE*?! MIAN'S STILL ALIVE?!!

INDEED-- DOES THAT PLEASE YOU?

BUT SHE WILL NEVER COME BACK TO YOU, NEVER RETURN TO YOUR ARMS. GIVE HER UP. BOY.

WATARU, THERE IS A LOT I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU. WHAT KIND OF JOURNEY DID YOU HAVE WITH MIAN? WHAT DID YOU TALK ABOUT?

WH-WHY SHOULD YOU CARE?

AH. BUT I DO, WATARU. MIAN HAD SOMETHING DIFFERENT FROM ME, SOMETHING I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

SHE WAS JUST A BREAKER, BUT EVEN SO I *HAVE* TO KNOW.

DAMN IT ALL...

WHY DID IT HAVE TO END LIKE THIS?!

!!

WHAT THE HELL?! LEMME GO!

I SAID GET OFF, YOU RAT BASTARD!

OKAY--YOU ASKED FOR IT!!

WHRAK

NOW WHAT'RE WE GONNA DO, HUH? IT'S COSTING ME MONEY SCREWING AROUND LIKE THIS!

YOU SAID IT, PAL. WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE THE EMPRESS IS...

PSSSSS

HEY, BABO-- YOU EVER SEEN THE LADY?

I SURE HAVE, BOYS.

SHE A BABE?

YOW, WHAT A MONSTER!

YOU BETTER BELIEVE IT-- YOUNG AND FRESH, HUGE GAZONGAS.

THERE THEY ARE! I FOUND THEM!

FREEZE!

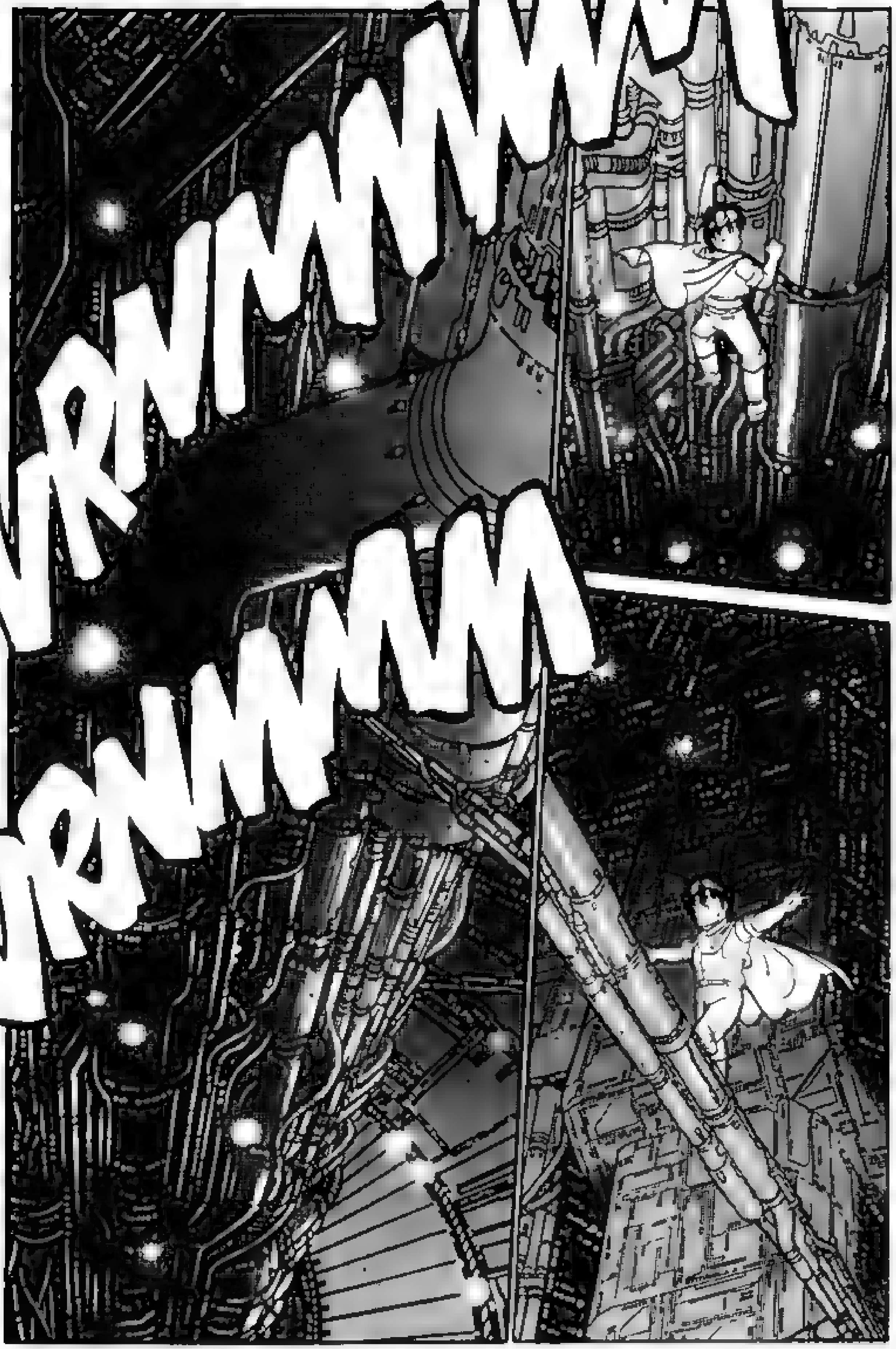
UH-OH...

SIR! THEY PISSED ON THE WIRING AND IT'S EATING AWAY THE INSULATION!

FORGET THAT, YOU IDIOT! AFTER THEM!!

DAMN! THEY WENT DOWN INTO THE CRAWLSPACE, SIR.

WORSE THAN COCKROACHES!


WWWW
WWWW
WWWW

KENSHIN

D-D-DON'T LOOK DOWN, WATARU...

HEY, JUST LOOK STRAIGHT AHEAD...NO PROBLEM RIGHT ?

IT'S ONLY AS HIGH AS YOU THINK IT IS...

JUST PRETEND YOU'RE ONLY A COUPLE OF FEET UP.

RELAX! JUST RELAX!

MIAN! IF YOU'RE STILL ALIVE, I'M GOING TO GET YOU OUT OF HERE!

AI YI YI!!

B-BETTER A WIMP THAN DEAD.

A PLANET OF MY OWN. ALL MY OWN! NO OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE. .

FOR THE FIRST TIME I AM *TRULY* A RULER, THE UNCHALLENGED RULER OF *BELTER THREE!*

I WILL TURN THIS WORLD INTO A SINGLE MIGHTY STATE, AN ALL-POWERFUL NATION!!

EVEN IF IT TAKES ME HUNDREDS... NO, THOUSANDS OF YEARS!

I HAVE ALL THE TIME IN THE WORLD! MY WORLD!

YOUR HIGHNESS!

KIAK

YOU ARE UNDER ARREST!

THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF HAVE TODAY VOTED UNANIMOUSLY TO ORDER THE ARREST OF *EMPRESS SHION CLARIS!*

FROM THIS DAY FORWARD, *WE* WILL TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FUTURE OF HELGEBARD. YOUR HIGHNESS, IT IS TIME FOR YOU TO RETIRE.

WE, AH. *REQUEST* THAT YOU ACCOMPANY US.

GULP

HEH.

YOU ARREST ME? HOW AMUSING...

GET OUT OF HERE THIS INSTANT!!

WHILE IM STILL IN THE *MOOD* TO LET YOU LIVE..

YOUR HIGHNESS!

IF YOU WILL NOT GO OF YOUR OWN FREE WILL, WE ARE PREPARED TO USE FORCE!

YOU WILL!

I SEE...

ALL THE LITTLE RATS HAVE THEIR TAILS IN A ROW.

AND WHO IS THE GRAND CONSPIRATOR BEHIND THIS FARCE? *YOU* DON'T HAVE THE GUTS FOR IT, KESSELR:NG!

HN NG!

SO SPEAK UP LIKE A MAN, WHOEVER YOU--

WHA--?

WH-WHAT IS THIS?!

KILLER

KILLER

KILLER

THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG WITH MY BODY! WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ME?!

MY ENERGY FLOW IS FLUCTUATING. IMPOSSIBLE!

THUMP

BUT I FEEL IT!

THUMP

DOWN TO MY VERY HEART-BEAT...

THUMP

WELL, WELL-- ARE YOU ALL RIGHT ?

WELL, EMPRESS SHION ?

MANSTEIN.. Y-YOU!

ALL RIGHT, KESSELRING !

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS ?!

YOUR HIGHNESS, FORGIVE ME'

I'M ONLY, I I'M ..

YOUR DEAR GENERAL IS ONLY FOLLOW.NG ORDERS AS DEFENSE MINISTER AND JOINT CHIEF UNDER *MY* COMMAND!

HE IS NO LONGER YOUR CAT'S PAW, YOUR MAJESTY

I SEE SO *YOU'RE* THE RINGLEADER!

YOUR ERA IS PASSING, EMPRESS SHION

ESPECIALLY WITH *YOUR* BODY, EH ?

A GOOD ANDROID, MY DEAR EMPRESS, ALWAYS NEEDS THE SUPERVISION OF HER *MASTER!*

THE ENERGY FLOWS IN THAT FINE BODY OF YOURS WERE ACTUALLY CONTROLLED BY THE CREATOR'S OWN MOTHER SYSTEM.

THE MOTHER SYSTEM ABOARD THE IMPERIUM ENERGY COLLECTION SHIP THAT *YOU* DESTROYED!

N-NONSENSE!

HOW COULD THE LIKES OF YOU KNOW THESE THINGS?!

WHY SIMPLE OBSERVATION AND DEDUCTION.

AND..IT SEEMS THERE WAS A SCIENTIST--PERHAPS YOU REMEMBER HIM--WHO *SCANNED* THE BODY OF MIAN TORIS.

WE BURNED HIS RESEARCH LAB TO THE GROUND AS YOU ORDERED. BUT IT SEEMS THAT, SOMEHOW, HIS DATA BANKS WERE MIRACULOUSLY SAVED..

WE ANALYZED THAT DATA TO LEARN THE STRUCTURE OF THE ANDROID MIAN TORIS.

I DOUBT A BREAKER AND AN IMPERIAN ARE ALL *THAT* DIFFERENT, EH ?!

YOU'RE A FAR LESS SOPHISTICATED ANDROID THAN YOU THOUGHT, *EMPRESS*!

AND IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, YOU'RE JUST A *MACHINE* !!

DAMN YOU!!!

BRAM

BRAM

BRAM

DAGNABBIT! IT'S A TIGHT FIT DOWN HERE!

YOU AIN'T KIDDING!

WHAT DODO TOLD US TO HIDE DOWN HERE, EH?!

YOU UNGRATEFUL KNUCKLEHEADS! THEY'D'VE CAUGHT US WITHOUT ME!

BETTER CAUGHT THAN TRAPPED LIKE AN AKOGI IN A PRICE-FIXING CARTEL!

YOU STEP OUTSIDE AND SAY THAT!

ZIP IT, YOU TWO!

HO ?

BABO! WHAT'S UP?!

I CAN SMELL THE EMPRESS!

SNIFF SNIFF

THAT'S OUR BABO-- HE'S GOT A NOSE FOR THE DAMES!

SO IF WE SNIFF HER OUT, THEN WE CAN TALK BUSINESS, RIGHT?!

THIS WAY, THIS WAY

WWWWW

DID THAT DO IT?

IS SHE DEAD? THE EMPRESS SHI'ON *REALLY* DEAD?

CAN'T BE TOO CERTAIN, CAN WE?

AFTER ALL, SHE WAS A FEARSOME CREATURE

WHOWAK!

LET'S JUST BLOW HER BRAINS OUT FOR GOOD MEASURE.

THOR

HA!

H--

HELP

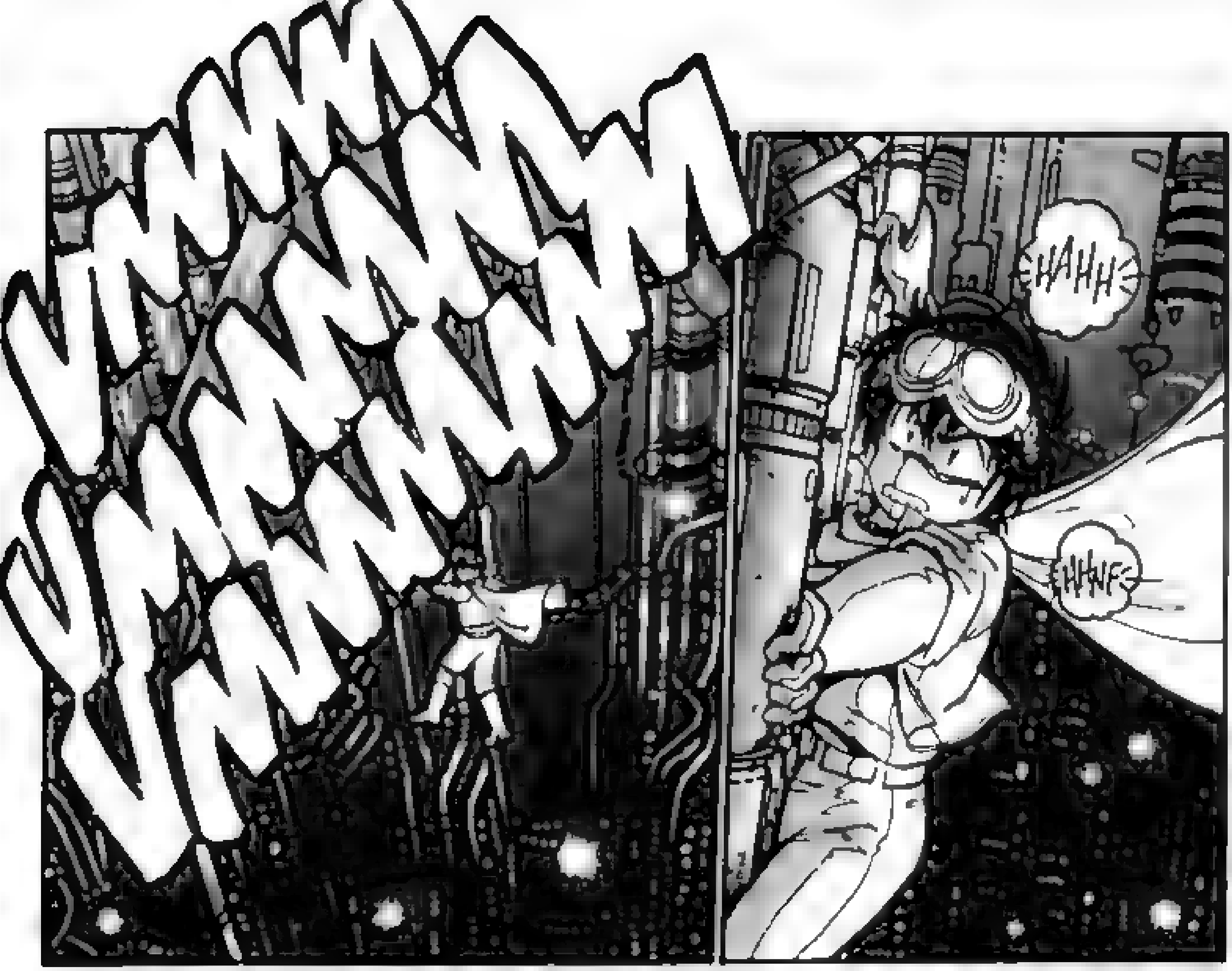
ME.

SKOK

HULK!

MY GOD!

MANSTEIN!?


HAHH?
MIAN!
MIAN!
IT'S ME!!
WA TA. RJ?

AH ?!

MIAN !!

WHEW...

YOU...YOU CRAZY GUY... DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT.

I'M REALLY NOT MUCH TO LOOK AT RIGHT NOW...

YOU MUST FEEL AWFUL, MIAN. BUT HOLD ON, I'LL GET YOU OUTTA HERE.

I'LL BE ALL RIGHT, HONEST WHAT I *REALLY* NEED IS FOR YOU TO HELP ME DO SOMETHING.

THAT CRYSTAL BALL IN MY BREASTPLATE-- TAKE IT OUT...

HUH ?

QUICKLY !

BUT...BUT WITHOUT THAT YOU REALLY *WILL* DIE, WONT YOU ?!

I CAN'T DO THAT! FORGET IT!

WATARU, YOU'VE GOT TO LISTEN TO ME.

IF I CAN'T STOP SHION, RA WILL SEND A WHOLE BATTLE FLEET. THEY CAN'T BE STOPPED-- THEY'LL BURN YOUR ENTIRE PLANET TO A CINDER.

WE'VE GOT TO DESTROY KYURAWEIL AND TOPPLE SHION, AND WE'VE GOT TO DO IT NOW!

B-BUT WHAT HAPPENS IF I TAKE IT OUT?

WITHOUT THIS CONTROL DEVICE, THE ENERGY IN THIS WHOLE COMPLEX WILL GO CRITICAL

KYURAWEIL KEEP, THE EMPRESS, US, WE'LL ALL BE DESTROYED IN THE EXPLOSION.

SHIRAHIME

BRAVE, WATARU.

YOU...YOU SAID YOU LOVE ME, RIGHT?

THEN DO THIS FOR LOVE...

VRNNNRNN

VRAAA

TOO LATE!

VREEE

WHERE ARE WE?

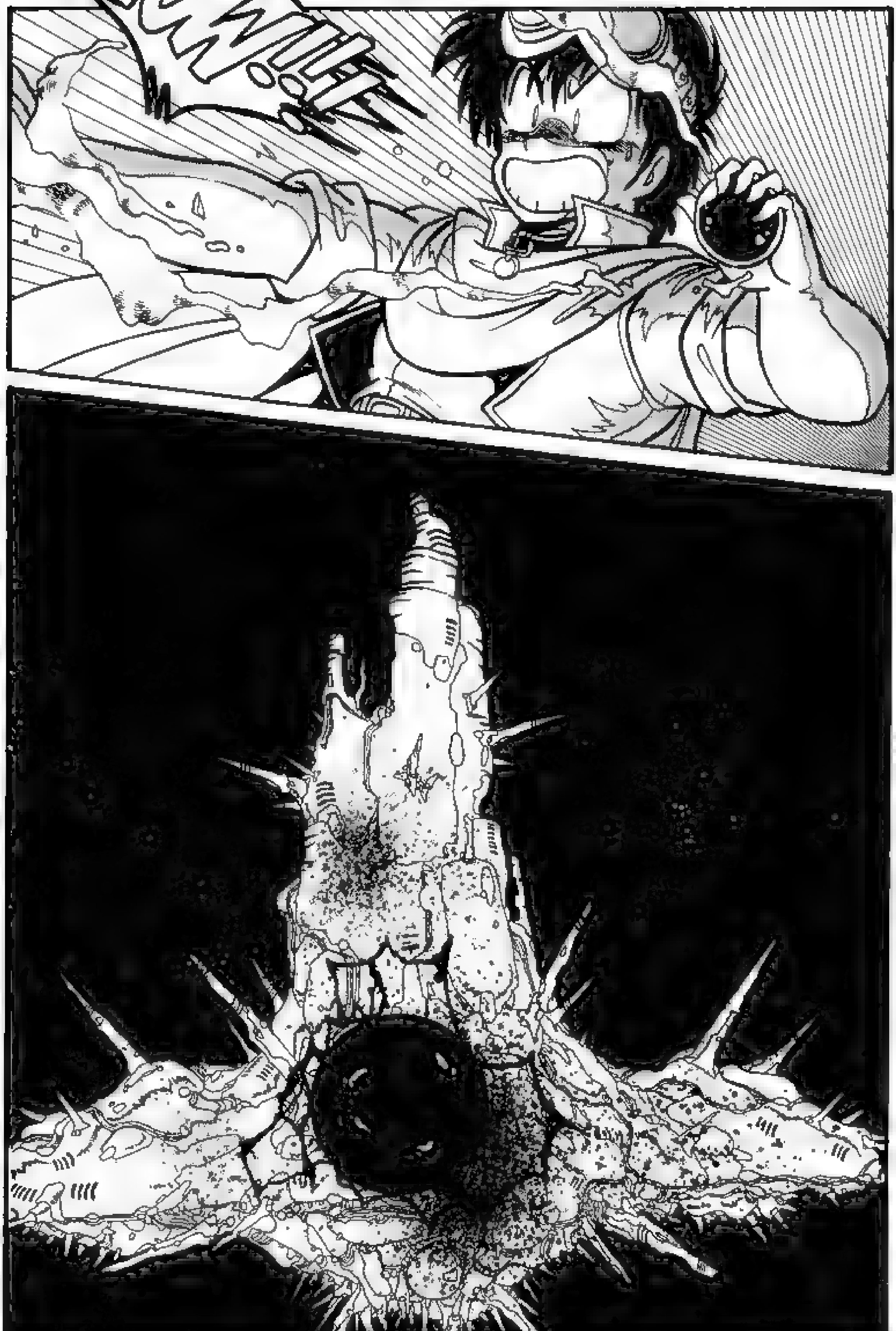
AHHH... SHE'S LEFT HER SCENT.

SNFF SNFF

HOLY COW! IT IS WATARU! HEY, GET UP HERE AND HELP US, YOU LAZY SWINE!

HEY, WHAT'S THAT DUMB PAL OF YOURS DOING?

AW, FORGET THE DUMB KID. HE'S A LEECH ON YOUR PROFITS.


NOW I'LL
DO IT!

KYURAWEIL IS BURNING


CM
BRAS

I DON'T MUCH LIKE THE LOOKS OF THIS...

BKROOOM

FZZ

WHOOM

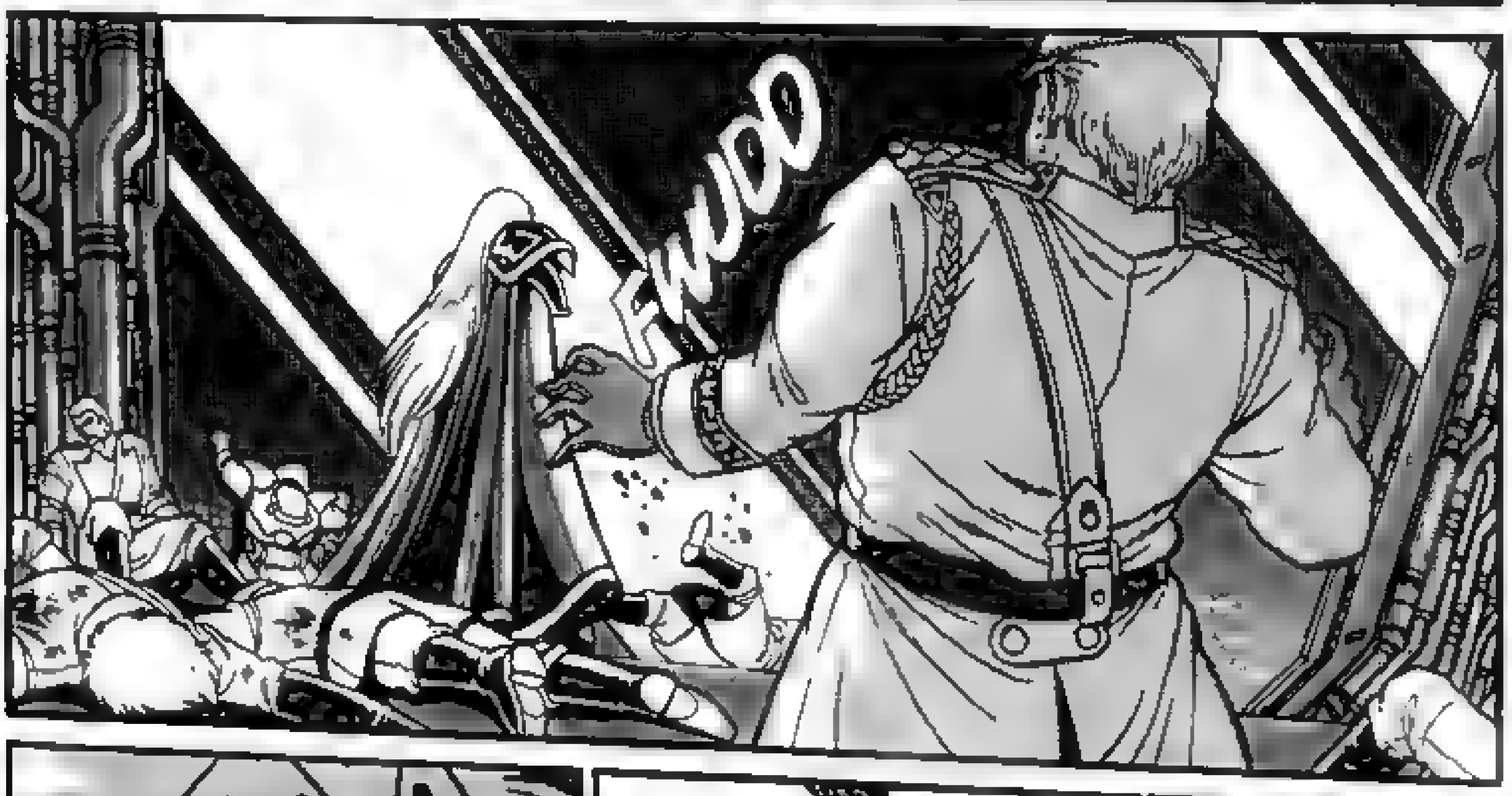
AAH!!

WHAM




AROOM
AROOM


CRACK


BOOM


BOOM
YOUR HIGHNESS! FORGIVE ME!
I WAS JUST FOLLOWING ORD--
SKRAK

ESCAPE

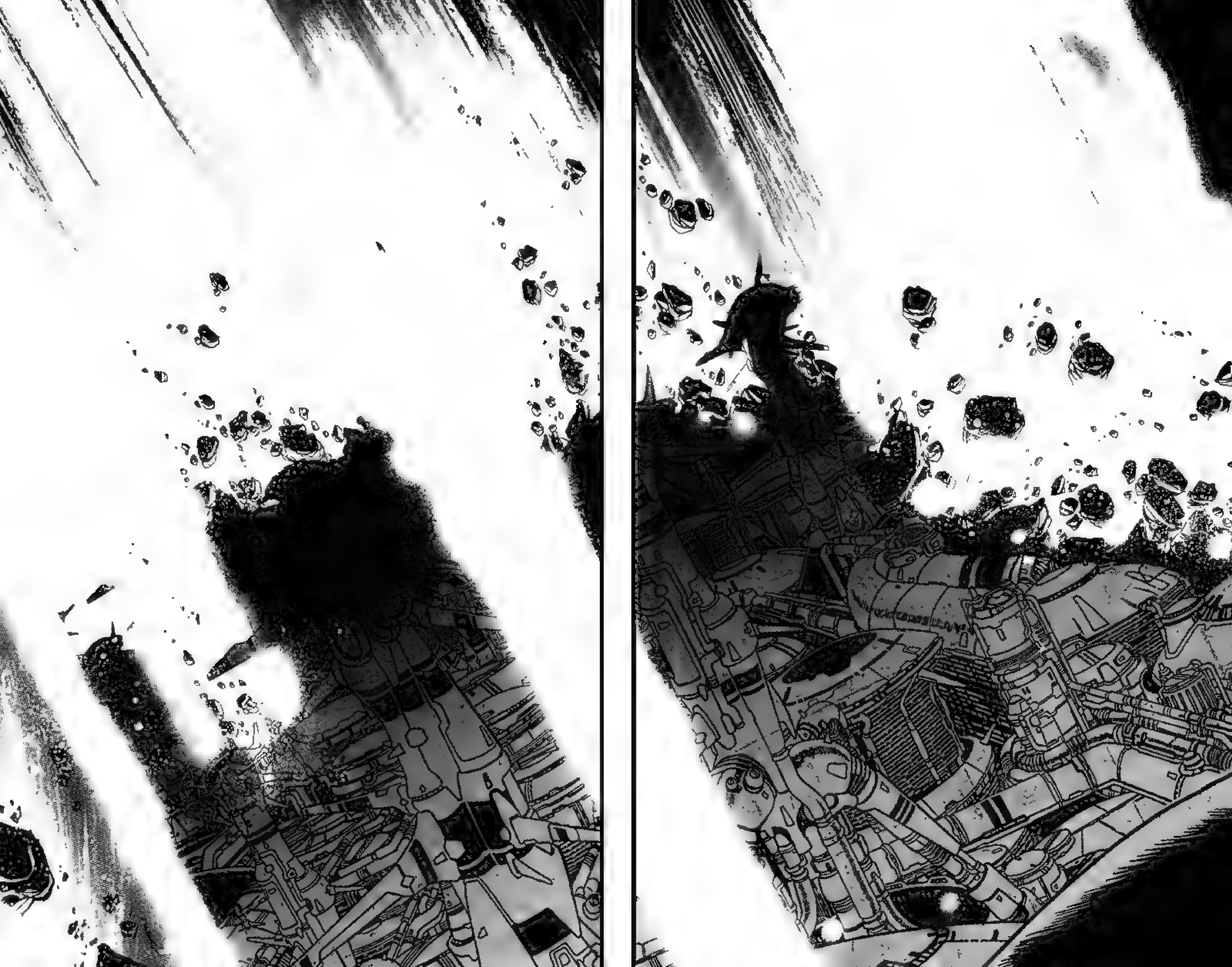
!!

AAGH!!

KKOOOM

ZZAP

FRRAAWWW



WH...WHAT HAPPENED...?

SHRAK

BKROOM

HEH HEH...

AHA HA HA HA HAA!

OH, MIAN! HA HA! YOU DID IT, GIRL!

AHH HA HAAA HA HA!

.....

THE EMPRESS... S-SHE'S GONE MAD.

SHION!

...

MIAN...

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE YOU LOOKING SO WELL AGAIN!

YOU CAN THANK WATARU FOR THAT.

I KNEW YOU COULD REPAIR YOURSELF... BUT *BOTH* ARMS?!

YOU REALLY *WERE* BUILT POWERFUL ENOUGH TO DESTROY ME.

MIAN?

I HATE YOU...

I HATE YOU...

...FOR INTERFERING WITH MY DREAM--

--EVEN THOUGH IN OUR HEARTS, BOTH OF US JUST WANT OUR FREEDOM FROM THE CREATOR!

I HATE OUR DESTINY, MIAN! ANDROIDS FORCED TO FIGHT EACH OTHER!

?

!!

MI... MIAN... WHA--

DIE, MIAN !!

HYAAAH!!!



HHN

!!

SKRAK


AAAAAA!!

YOU DID IT!!!

YOU DID IT, MIAN!!

YOU TOOK OUT SHION!!

MIAN...?

WATARU...

LOOK WELL... THIS IS THE FATE OF AN ANDROID SLAVE, WATARU.

ONE DEFIES THE MASTER, AND DIES. ANOTHER OBEYS THE MASTER, AND KILLS HER OWN KIND.

AND UNTIL NOW... I NEVER EVEN QUESTIONED IT.

SHION WASN'T OUT OF CONTROL.

SHE JUST WANTED TO BE MASTER OF HER OWN DESTINY. THAT'S ALL SHE WANTED.

SHE ONLY DID WHAT ANY OF YOU HUMANS WOULD DO...

AND I HAD TO GO AND KILL HER... MY OWN SISTER.

....

....

MI... AN..

SHION?!

SHION...

MIAN, Y...YOU CAN DO IT, CHILD..

YOU CAN PUT THE CREATOR BEHIND YOU, AND LIVE FREE!

NO...I CAN'T.

I DON'T HAVE YOUR COURAGE, OR YOUR STRENGTH, SHION.

BUT YOU'VE ALREADY BEGUN. YOU'RE ALMOST FREE ALREADY...

EH?

I...I AM? BUT HOW...

DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?

YOU'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH WATARU, MIAN

AT FIRST HE WAS JUST A SPECIMEN, A GENE SAMPLE TO SEND BACK TO THE *RA IMPERIUM*

BUT ON THAT LONG, CRAZY CARAVAN OF YOURS, YOU LEARNED EMOTIONS, THINGS YOU WERE NEVER PROGRAMMED TO FEEL..

AND ME? I NEVER FELT LOVE FOR ANYTHING BLOSSOM IN ME, MIAN..

EVEN THOUGH WE'RE BOTH THE SAME... ANDROIDS.

BY LOVING WATARU YOU'VE *ALREADY* ESCAPED THE CREATOR, MIAN. YOU'RE FREE!


WHO

KROOMM

MIAN, THIS PLACE WON'T HOLD FOR MUCH LONGER.

LET'S MAKE TRACKS! FAST!

I CAN'T LEAVE, WATARU.

I HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE CREATOR TO RECOVER ME.

DON'T BE AN *IDIOT*, MIAN! STOP TALKING THAT TRASH!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO FOLLOW *ANYBODY'S* ORDERS! NOT ANYMORE!

WATARU...

THERE'S NO WAY I CAN ESCAPE THE CREATOR.

C'MON-- YOU WON'T KNOW UNTIL YOU'VE AT LEAST TRIED, RIGHT?!

AND YOU'RE NOT ALONE, MIAN. I'M HERE TO HELP YOU.

AND EVEN BABO, TOO!

NOW COME ON... LET'S GO, TOGETHER!

SHION... FAREWELL!

HERE--YOU WON'T BE NEEDING THIS ANYMORE.

GEE, I DON'T KNOW... I FEEL SORTA WEIRD WITHOLT IT...

IT'S JLST A SENSOR PACK-- IT'S BEEN RECORDING YOUR BEHAVIOR AND ALL YOUR MENTAL ACTIVITY.

THEY WOULD HAVE USED IT TO PROGRAM NEW IMPERIANS.

YOU MEAN I'D'VE BEEN OUR PLANET'S REPRESENTATIVE TO THE *GALAXY?!*

BUT... WHY ME?

THEY WANTED THE MOST TOTALLY AVERAGE JOE AROUND.

WHAT?

MASTER BLASTER

AND AS A COMPARISON AGAINST THE AVERAGE, THE MOST AMORAL POSSIBLE SCUM..

YOU MEAN BABO?

THE PROBLEM IS, AFTER COLLECTING THE DATA, I WAS SUPPOSED TO SEND BOTH OF YOU "ORIGINAL SAMPLES" BACK TO THE EMPIRE...

...FOR PRESERVATION ON THE ZOO PLANET OF DELTA IV.

HEY, I LIKE IT FINE RIGHT HERE!!

BOING

GULP

BABO !?!

OH, HEY-- WATARU. FANCY MEETIN' YOU HERE!

WHERE THE BLAZES HAVE YOU BEEN?! WE'VE BEEN THROUGH *HELL!*

YOU HAD IT BAD?! AND WHAT HAVE *YOU* DONE FOR THE BOTTOM LINE LATELY? AND IN OUR PEAK SEASON, TOO!

DEALS, DEALS, DEALS-- WE'VE BEEN WEARING OUT OUR BUTTS!

URGH!

WHAT THE HECK IS *YOUR* PROBLEM ?

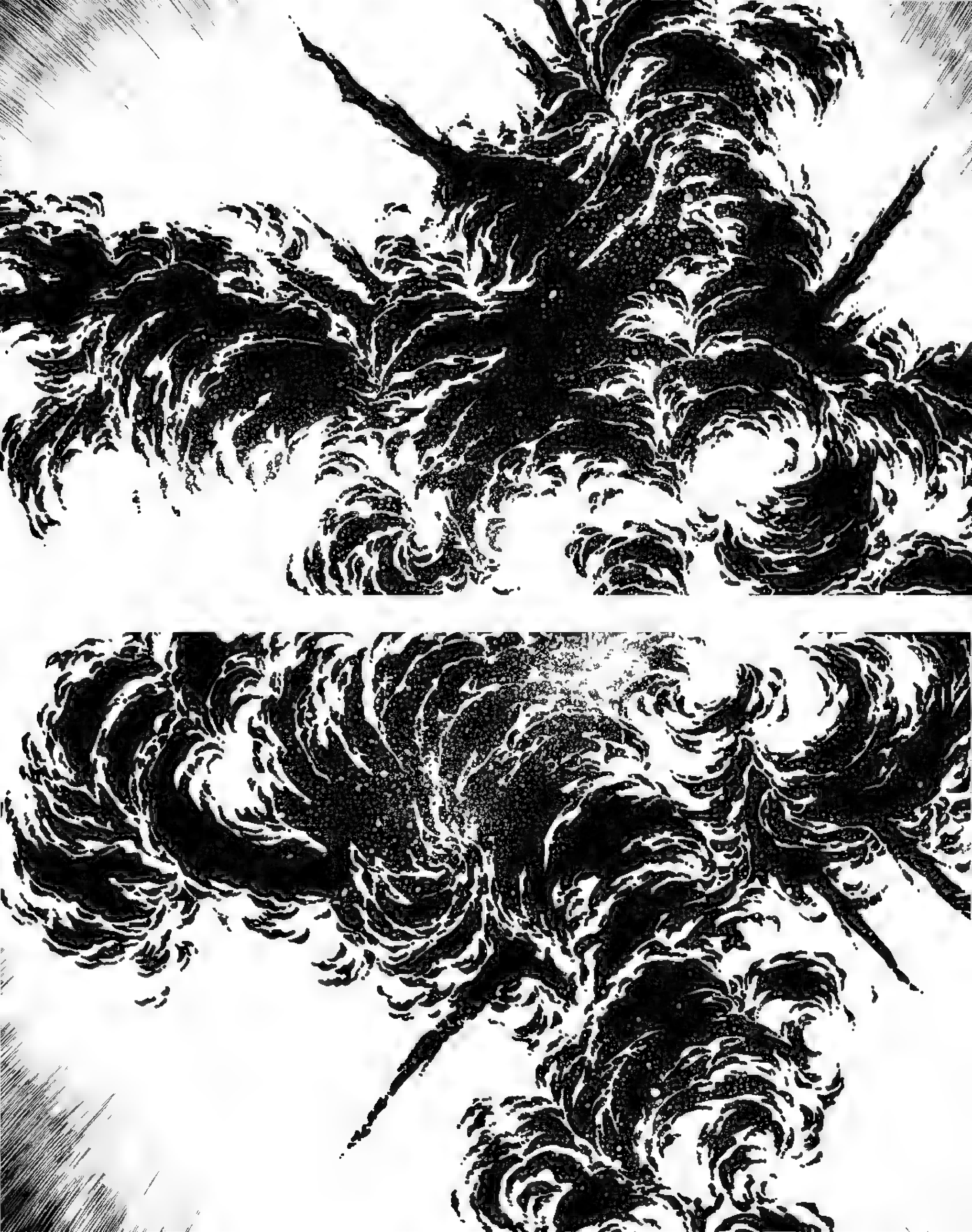
URG... AGH...

IT'S THE DREADED *RECESSION SCURVY!* WE HAVEN'T MADE MONEY IN SO LONG WE'RE GOING THROUGH WITHDRAWAL!

BRING US BUSINESS OR WE *DIE!!*

SSPARK


WHOOOA



WHAT THE HELL ?!

A VOLCANO ?!

WOW-- LOOK AT THAT PILLAR OF FIRE!

IT'S COMING FROM KYURAWEIL KEEP !!

LOOK, DADDY, LOOK! IT'S PRETTY!!

FIREWORKS !!

YAHOO !!

DEADLINE TODAY!

DEADLINE TOMORROW !

I WANT SOME SICK LEAVE...=SNFF=...

THE PILLAR OF FLAME THAT ROSE ABOVE KYURAWEIL KEEP THAT DAY COULD BE SEEN IN EVERY CORNER OF THE LAND...



CARAVAN KIDD™

THE ROAD GOES EVER ON

MY...
MY
GOD...

YOU'RE SAFE AS LONG AS YOU STAY WITH ME

HUH...?

I'M USING MY INTERNAL POWER TO BEND THE SPACE AROUND US.

EVEN A BREAKER DOESN'T WANT TO GET CAUGHT IN HER OWN EXPLOSION.

!

MIAN, YOU DON'T LOOK TOO GOOD... ARE YOU REALLY OKAY?

YEAH, WELL, IT DOES HURT A BIT...

THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME LEFT. NOT FOR ME, ANYWAY.

WHAT?!

I USED UP MOST OF MY POWER DESTROYING KYURAWEIL KEEP.

IT'S ALL I CAN DO TO GET YOU GUYS OUT OF HERE.

I DON'T REALLY KNOW, WATARU. WILL MY CIRCUITS JUST SHUT DOWN?

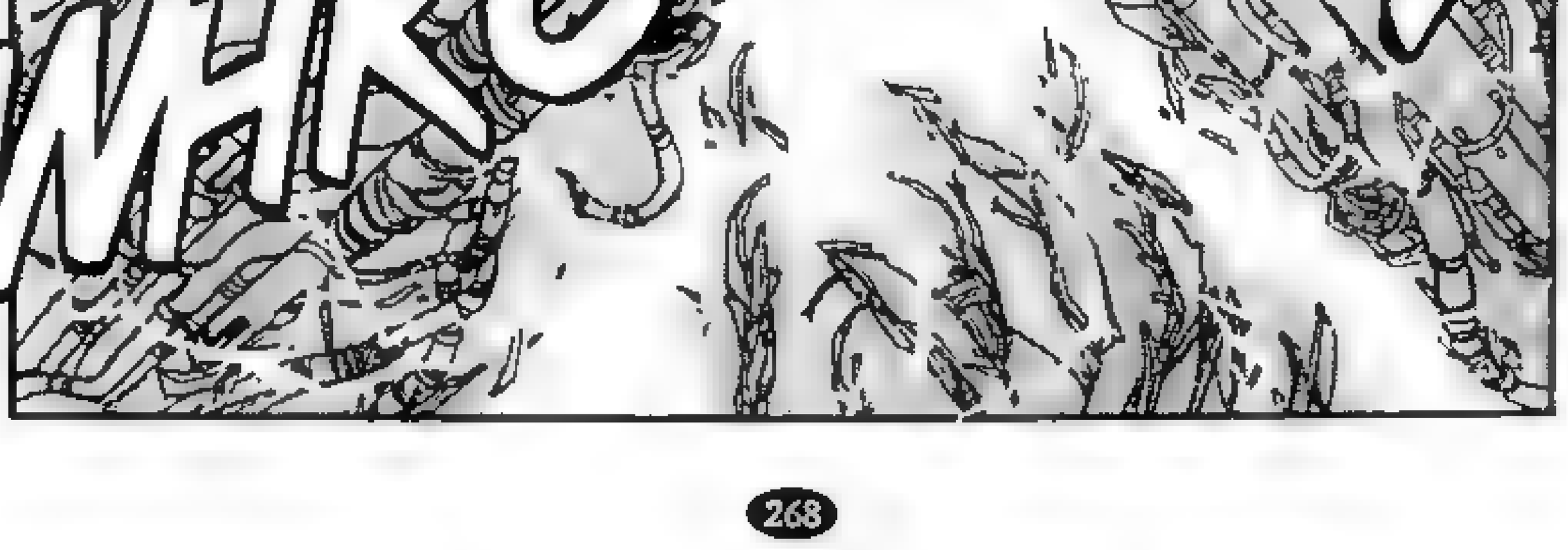
WILL I DISINTEGRATE...? I DON'T KNOW MY OWN FATE ANY MORE THAN YOU DO...

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, MIAN?! YOU PROMISED WE'D GO BACK ON THE ROAD TOGETHER! YOU SAID YOU'D TAKE US ALONG!

WAS THAT ALL A LIE?! WAS IT?!

YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS! YOU MEAN YOU'RE GONNA... DIE?!

FORGIVE ME, WATARU, MY LOVE...



IF EVER WE MEET AGAIN...

THIS TIME, YOU INVITE ME...

BREAKER ZERO-ONE, CODENAME MIANTORIS, IS MISSING. RECOVERY FROM BELTER III WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE

BASE DELTA FOUR HAS BEEN DESTROYED. TELEMETRY INDICATES ACTIVATION OF THE PRIMARY BREAKER FUNCTION

THIS IS THE SEVENTEENTH TIME A BREAKER HAS GONE OPERATIONAL THIS CHRONOSEQUENCE ALONE.

WE HAVE TO CONCLUDE THERE IS A TERMINAL DESIGN FLAW IN THE SERIES 7 IMPERIAN ANDROID UNITS

WE SHOULD NEVER HAVE BASED THEM ON HUMANS IN THE FIRST PLACE THAT WAS MY ADVICE, YOU RECALL

SIMPLE ROBOTS ARE GOOD ENOUGH FOR THESE LOW-LEVEL PLANETS

I DISAGREE THE IMPERIANS WERE ESPECIALLY CRAFTED TO LEAD THE LOWER RACES ONTO CONSTRUCTIVE EVOLUTIONARY TRACKS

BUT NO ONE EXPECTED THEM TO DEVELOP *THIS* LEVEL OF CONSCIOUSNESS THEY'RE BEYOND OUR CONTROL!

MAY I REMIND THE COUNCIL THAT TELEMETRY ANALYSIS SHOWED ABNORMALITIES IN THE PSYCHOTRONICS OF THE BREAKER UNIT ON DELTA FOUR

YES, TROUBLING INDEED WE DELIBERATELY STRUCTURED THE BREAKER PSYCHOTRONIC SUB-SYSTEM TO PREVENT EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

I MOVE THAT WE IMMEDIATELY ORDER THE RECOVERY OF ALL SERIES 7 IMPERIAN AND BREAKER UNITS. THEY REPRESENT A GRAVE DANGER

MOTION DENIED. AT THIS STAGE IT IS PHYSICALLY IMPOSSIBLE. AND TO DO SO WOULD SOLVE NOTHING

HOW DO THE SUPERIORS PERCEIVE THIS INCIDENT?

THERE HAS STILL BEEN NO RESPONSE AT ALL.

WE SHOULD *DEMAND* A RESPONSE! IT'S NOT JUST A PROBLEM FOR *OUR* JURISDICTION!

WE HUMANS ARE NEAR THE END OF OUR EVOLUTIONARY TRACK BUT *THEY* ARE GOING TO KEEP EVOLVING!

WHAT IF THE ENTIRE BALANCE BETWEEN HUMANS AND ARTIFICIAL LIFE FORMS IS DISTURBED?

I AGREE WE NEED A QUICK ANSWER.

IN TIME THIS *PROBLEM* COULD SHAKE THE FOUNDATIONS OF OUR EMPIRE...


ENTRÉE

MIAN...
?

$
$
$
$
$

hahh

MIAN... ARE YOU REALLY GONE?

huff

DAMN IT ALL, BABO! GET UP!

BOOT

WE'VE GOT TO SEARCH FOR MIAN!

BEAUTIFUL EKODA:
GARBAGE DUMP OF THE
NORTHERN PERIPHERY

OUT
LANDERS

TWO PITCHERS, COMIN' RIGHT UP!!

IS D.D. GUYS.

WHERE'S MUH DAMN GRUB!!

SORRY, SORRY! IT'S COMING!

HEY, YOU OVERPAID SLUG!

WHAT NOW, SIR...?

HAUL THIS TRASH OUT TO THE ALLEY, BOY

THEN START ON THOSE DISHES!

I'M BEGGING YOU, SIR... JUST A SHORT BREAK!

QUIT YER WHININ'-- YOU WANT THIS JOB OR NOT?

GEEZ.. WHAT A GODDAMN SLAVE-DRIVER!

AHH, WATARU...

BABO!

OH, GREAT. STILL GOT THAT BAG OF CRAP, I SEE

ZIP IT, SONNY! MAYBE I'M A LITTLE RUSTY, BUT I'LL GET THE OL' MAGIC BACK AGAIN!

"ZIP IT, SONNY"...? I'M WORKING MY BUTT OFF TO COVER YOUR STINKIN' DEBTS!

NOW, NOW, KEEP THE FAITH, MY LAD! ONE GOOD SCAM AND IT'S DDs FOR US!

GRUMBLE

OH, WATARU, OL' BUDDY, OL' PAL.. I'M SO HUNGRY I'M GONNA DIE.

FEED ME, FEED ME!

THE HELL I WILL, YOU LUMP! YOU THINK MONEY GROWS ON TREES?!

GO PICK THROUGH THE GARBAGE IF YOU'RE SO HUNGRY!

EASY TO SAY, OLD BOY, BUT YOU ALREADY GOT ALL THE GOOD STUFF.

ARGG! I CAN'T TAKE THIS LIFE ANYMORE !

?!

AIEE!

SLASH

WHIRR

WHAT TH-?

FIGHT ! FIGHT !

FINALLY! HEY, SORD ON THE REDHEAD!

OH, NO!

KRAK WHUD

COME ON, FIGHT, YOU FAT SLOB!!

ALL RIGHT! CLOBBER 'IM!

BOSS! THEY'RE FIGHTING!

SOME SCUMBALL HITS ON THIS BABE AND SHE LOSES IT WOMEN, I TELL YA...

A BABE ?

WHA-?!

I GOT EYES, YOU KNUCKLEHEAD!

IT'S MIAN! MY GOD, IT'S MIAN!!

WAAH!

MIIK-AAN!!!

GURMPH!

H-HI, MIAN. . .

YOU'RE ALIVE! THANK THE CREATOR YOU'RE STILL ALIVE!

I WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU, MIAN! THIS IS GREAT! YAHOO!!

JUST WHO THE HELL ARE YOU?

HUH?

YOU GOT THE WRONG *MIAN*, KIDDO!

NEVER SEEN YOU BEFORE IN MY LIFE.

EH...?

B-BUT...

WHAT THE-- ARE YOU SLEEPWALK-ING OR SOMETHING?! IT'S ME! *ME!* WATARU!

HEY, SO MANY DUMB-LOOKIN' GEEKS HIT ON ME I CAN'T KEEP THEM ALL STRAIGHT.

THERE SHE IS!

HEH...

BITCH! YOU ROUGH UP ONE OF MY BOYS, YOU GOTTA PAY!

PREPARE TO DIE!

SWOOSH

MIAN...

WHAM

KRAK.

BAD

OOMPH!

NOW YOU GOT ME MAD!

TAKE THIS!

AIEEE!!

YES!

YA FILTHY SLUT!

....

DUH...

?

UH, SORRY 'BOUT THAT, BOSS... SORRY, HONEST!

PEACE, OK?

YOU BONEHEAD !!

SMACK

TRY THIS ON FOR SIZE!

KLOD

WHOK

OH, YEAH?! AND WHO GOT WHIPPED BY A DUMB BROAD, HUH?!

HEH, HEH!

WAY TO GO!!

YAHOO!

FIRES AND FIGHTS ARE THE FLOWERS OF EKODA! BEAT THE SHIT OUT OF THEM, BOYS!



NOBODY MOVE!

YOU'RE ALL UNDER ARREST! DISORDERLY CONDUCT, ORDINANCE TWO!

HEY! WAIT!

YOU CAN'T RUN AWAY UNTIL I GET TO BEAT YOU UP!

HURRY UP AND MAKE TRACKS! THEY'LL THROW YOU IN THE CLINK!

HEY! WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?!

IF THIS GETS ANY WORSE WE WON'T BE ABLE TO GET OUT OF TOWN!

WAIT A MINUTE!

I SAID WAIT, DAMMIT!

HEY, HANDS OFF, BUDDY! YOU PLANNING TO GROPE ME ALL NIGHT LONG OR SOMETHING?!

SHEESH... WHATCHA BLUSHING FOR, KID ?

N-NOTHING.

Y'KNOW... MAYBE I *DID* MEET YOU SOMEWHERE BEFORE...

TOLD YOU SO!

YEAH... SOME-HOW I FEEL...

YOU SAID YOUR NAME'S *WATARU*?

YOU GOT IT!

HMPH WATARU, HUH...?

WATARU... WA-TA-RU...!

DAMN! CAN'T QUITE REMEMBER!

HEY, IT'S OKAY...

'CAUSE I DON'T *CARE* IF YOU'VE FORGOTTEN ALL ABOUT ME! I STILL WANT YOU TO COME WITH ME!

GO WITH YOU?

WHERE? WHAT ON EARTH FOR?

I...I LOVE YOU, MIAN!!

YOU... LOVE ME?

YES!

LORDY, WHAT A LINE. "DIDN'T I MEET YOU SOMEWHERE BEFORE"...! OH, FOR *SURE*!

YOU'RE JUST ANGLIN' FOR A DATE, RIGHT?

WRONG!!

HEE HEE... YOU'RE SO NAIVE, WATARU... THAT'S KINDA CUTE. ♡

STILL, I'M HAPPY. IT'S NICE WHEN SOME GUY ACTS LIKE HE LOVES A TOUGH OL' BROAD LIKE ME.

SO YOU WANT ME TO TAG ALONG WITH YOU, HUH, CUTIE?

OKAY, SURE! I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR A TRAVELING COMPANION. AND I THINK WE COULD GET ALONG *REAL* WELL.

ALL RIGHT! YOU KEPT YOUR PROMISE...

YO, WATARU! OLD PARDNER! CHECK OUT THE DUMPSTER BEHIND THAT RESTAURANT OVER--

GREAT SNAPPIN' ARSEHOLES!! IS THAT *MIAN*?!!

GEE, I GUESS I'M KINDA FAMOUS, HUH?

WHAT THE *HELL* ARE YOU UP TO, BOY?! YOU'RE NOT PLANNING TO RUN OFF WITH THAT CRAZY BROAD AGAIN?!

YEAH, SO? WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?! WE WOULDN'T BE PETS *THIS* TIME!

'SCUSE ME, BUT IS THAT... THING... A FRIEND OF YOURS?

UH, YEAH! THAT'S BABO! HE'S A GREAT GUY! REALLY!

JUST COOL IT, BABO! WITH MIAN ALONG WE DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT DEBT COLLECTORS, RIGHT?

...!

MIAN, BABY! SWEETY PIE! HONEY BUNS!!

SPLAT

KAWHOT

CAN'T YOU DO ANYTHING RIGHT?!

SH-SHE STILL CAN'T TAKE A JOKE.

HEY, GET SOME CASH IN MY WALLET, I CAN HANDLE BABES LIKE HER, NO PROB!

NOT MIAN, YOU CAN'T.

OH, HO! YOU SOUND PRETTY SURE OF YOURSELF...

STUFF A SOCK IN IT, YOU SACK OF--

WHOA THERE, WATARU! DID SOMETHING SORTA *HAPPEN* BETWEEN YOU AND MIAN?!

I SAID SHUT UP! IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!

HEY, LOVER BOY'S GONE ALL RED! OOO-WEE!

I SAID SHUT UP!!

HEY, WATARU-- STOP FIGHTING WITH THE BLOB AND LET'S GO GET SMASHED. TOMORROW WE'RE HITTIN' THE ROAD!

THE END OF CARAVAN KIDD